4/3/~~73~~74

(Marie Justes)

'Sus you are set for sorrow'
— Petrarch the brazier

'straight, exact, rational & true'

'white lope'

Gallic rooster!
brazier

753
1974

2727

MMDCCXXVII

c/o The Little Company of Mary
Calvary Nursing Home
Harrow on the Hill Middlesex Sudbury Hill

a. d. IV. Non. Mart,
Fest. S. Kieran Epis. et Con.
Anno ab INCARNATIONE Xti.
MCMLXXIV
A.V.C. circa MMDCCXXVIII

I think that's all wrong
because I can't do the simplest
arithmetic
taking the year of the
foundation of the City as B.C. ~~753~~
753 & adding the 1974 years A.D.
one has to substract one year in toto,
because of the change fr BC to A.D.

Dearest René

Thank you very much indeed for your letter giving me the bit from Roland that I asked about. I felt rather a fool in bothering you with the matter, but owing my not having here the text & your translation — that work being in the room I had ~~without~~ with masses of various other things that I ~~contain~~ may require at any moment, are in packing-cases in my dugout at Monksdene.

I always forget the name of Turpin & get ~~to~~ mixed up with Odo. —

I always remember that the Archbishop himself mortally wounded went for all his maims to get water for the dying Roland

in making

Indeed, or rather the last bit of *In Parenthesis* I especially had that in mind for it was terrible thirst that the blokes near me & I myself found almost unendurable — we thought that we (I mean of 'we' just the few chaps who in the confusion in the wood ~~(~~ for it was a hopeless confusion) thought that we were unfortunate in some way in our very desiderium of the water-~~bro~~ brooks but I learned only fairly recently that of this want of water afflicted well, certainly the whole Brigade or even the Division, for I understand that

N.B.
Again not read through — so God knows what rubbish
& mistakes it contains, but if I don't give it to
someone who posts my letters it will have to wait another day

it was recognised by the High Command but the unfortunate lack of water was one, if not the principle, cause of our being withdrawn & relieved by ~~of~~ fresh units ~~within~~ within ~~forty~~ about 36 hours after ~~I was wounded~~ the time when I was wounded. ~~that~~ was Sometime in the small hours of July 11th. we had been by then engaged with German troops* since about 3-30 or 4 AM of the 10th. however but may be, at some hour in the night (I presume)* of the 11th–12th it appears that ~~a~~ decision was ~~too~~ taken after weighing-up by the High Command that we should be relieved by other units. I understand that ~~certain of~~ some one ~~the one~~ held to be responsible was ~~was~~ relieved of ~~the~~ his post but I dont know who it was that was considered to be to blame – probably the least blame-worthy!*

But not sure, for Leslie Poulter wrote to me in hospital in England & he described the relief & said that Colonel 'Dell' looked wonderful in his battle-torn tunic & unshaved face walking at the head of the column with his long stick like a shepherds' crook.

* also that they were troops of distinction have forgotten the name of the corps but something similar to our Bde of Guards. this I learned only the other day

the charge was that whoever it was that he had brought already exhausted troops into action apart from the lack of water.

To get back on Turpin, Roland ~~thing~~ thanks for giving the line 2195 & the French text "Après ad dit: Mare fustes Seignurs!" & your translation 'Lords, you were set for sorrow'. As you know my understanding of the French tongue is virtually nill but I wanted to know how the bit went. for your translation has so often rung in my head, but not it appears with ~~accy~~ exactitude.

In the context of a thing I promised I'd get at least a first draft of one part in time for William Cookson to print in the next issue of *Agenda* that he especially want to get out at the time Fabers are publishing the ~~bits~~ various fragments in book form entitled *The Sleeping Lord & other fragments* – supposed to be published on March 25. I've managed to get at least one part finished in time and I think, in the context, I must keep 'Sirs, you are set for sorrow'* for it is in a passage that refers to Peter warming his ~~hads~~ hands at the 'fire of coals' made by the details of the Escort party ~~pending~~ pending further orders

For one thing its set up in print now

③

in the gusty dawn-chill of the outer guard-room of the
House of Annas with that ~~prating~~ probing slut of
a door-keeper noting the north-county inflection of
the Fisherman's speech — it is a bit of the evangelism

that has always intrigued me — it rings so true, so ~~absolutely~~ absolutely true,
for what ~~[illegible]~~ 'rank & file' would ever
hang about in the cold for long, without
finding fuel from somewhere — "Wot about a
brazier, Corp?" "That's alright ~~[illegible]~~ be me,
~~but~~ ~~keep~~ Keep it low. For by the Twins, we would be
in for it, if the Big Head of the Judaean ~~[illegible]~~ Senate
found half his flossy residence a calcined heap.

I don't mean this bit is to the actual text, but merely indicates for you my line of thought

I go on to say that while the Fisherman
could but make his cursings & denials
the Gallic rooster had crowed but twice
but soon, his neck stretched out,
he made his third high cry.
That crow of dolour echoes yet
down the labyrinth of time so
that we hear ~~still~~ it still as
clearly as we hear the echoing blast
from Roncesvalles and with it,
of necessity,
the straight, exact, rational & true
'Sirs, you are set for sorrow.'
That is as far as I've got yet.

But I wanted to know from
you the actual words in the French text
& yr translation
Must shut up now, ~~[illegible]~~ my eyes
playing me up properly.
I had a nice visit some days back

I wonder what was the personnel of that arrest party — a mixed bunch I suppose, but the 'Temple police' allowed by the Roman ~~[illegible]~~ authorities to function in certain circumstances — maybe like the guard lent ~~[illegible]~~ by Pilate when he told the Judaean ~~[illegible]~~ priests & elders that 'You have a guard, use it' when they bothered him about making the Sepulchre secure &

to Nancy Saunders, she is a remarkable person that combination of such academic ~~learning~~ learning in archaeology & pre-history along with an ~~unusual~~ immediate perception of poiesis in ~~whatever~~ whatever medium.

Glad you found something to like in the brief thing The Narrows — I feared it had not come off quite.* That was a piece made because the Editor of Anglo-Welsh Review asked me if I had anything for the 50th anniversary of that periodical, he is a very nice bloke & with a wide knowledge & outlook.

*but Nancy S. liked it also

It was rather amusing because when I wrote, I wonder how blithe Helen goes the Party Line or White Iope & the Dog he asked me about 'White Iope & the Dog' — well, I only knew of 'White Iope' from Wyatt's marvellous poem (~~W~~which, I, by some aberration thought was by ~~[illegible]~~ Campion!) and I looked up in a small Classical Dictionary & could find nothing of Iope but that kind man Peter Orr ~~who~~ who is greatly informed on English poetry & much besides also knew of White Iope only from the Wyatt poem took the trouble to ask an old mate of ~~his~~ Cambridge Univ. days ~~who~~ who gave the Classical author in whom Wyatt got his Iope & Peter Orr sent me a telegram to tell me of it — which I thought a jolly kind, nice thing to do. I've lost the telegram as I lose everything alas, & I spend hours looking for things mislaid.

Much love to Joan &
of course yourself

David.

I've found my long letter, I mentioned, dated Jan. or Feb but it's only a ~~meany~~ meander about that bloody Nelson signed & ~~the~~ pro. Caird, anti Caird stuff. I keep it I think till I either see you for some other time. Now I've mislaid it again anyway! Dai